



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Nashville District

News Release

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Center Hill Expansion Joint Scheduled Maintenance

NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 25, 2005 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced scheduled work near each end of the spillway on Center Hill Dam on the Caney Fork River to reestablish expansion joints.

The work will begin March 1, and will involve cuts in the upper portion of Center Hill Dam adjacent to each end of the spillway. Waterstops will then be installed to prevent leakage. The work will take approximately four weeks to complete. During the work, one lane of the bridge across the dam will be closed and the traffic will be regulated by timed signals.

The concrete portion of Center Hill Dam was completed in 1948. Like many concrete structures built during this era, the dam is affected by a phenomenon called Alkali-Aggregate Reaction or AAR. AAR is a chemical reaction within the hardened concrete between the aggregate (rock) and the cement. Over many years, this reaction causes a very slow expansion of the concrete. In large dams, like Center Hill, this concrete expansion does not pose a safety hazard but may require specific maintenance work, such as expansion joints, to assure trouble-free operation of the outermost spillway gates. For more information, contact Ken Hull, Engineering – Construction Division, Design Branch at (615) 736-7913 or the Center Hill Lake Resource Managers Office at 931-858-3125.